

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on August 9, 2007 the Examiner noted that claims 1-15 were pending, and rejected claims 1-15. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, claim 16 has been added and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-16 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter is believed to have been added. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed below.

REJECTION

In the Office Action, on page 4, claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Shiloh (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0037316).

Amended independent claim 1 recites, **"communicating, via a network, virtual personal information of a virtual world having a representation format similar to that of real personal information of a real world to a manager within a virtual world,"** which is supported by the embodiment of the invention on page 5 lines 4-7 and page 13 lines 20-27 of the Specification.

By at least the aforementioned features, virtual personal information of a virtual world is communicated to a manager within the virtual world. As a result, security is further improved by communicating virtual information within a virtual world.

It is respectfully submitted that Shiloh does not disclose the aforementioned features. Rather, Shiloh is directed to a method and system for securing user identities and creating virtual users to enhance privacy on a communication network. As described in Fig. 1, the system includes an Anonymous Virtual Personality Provider ("AVPP") real world site 22 and an AVPP Internet site 24. (see Shiloh, paragraph [0045]). The AVPP real world site communicates with real user 10 who is completely anonymous via Internet, but is known to the AVPP real world site 22. The user 10 accesses the Internet 12 with a virtual personality 110 to engage in various activities. (see Shiloh, paragraph [0028] and [0046]). For example, the user 10 may purchase goods from a website of an electronic retailer ("e-tailer") 14, participate in chat rooms or games 16, or surf the Web using a search engine 18. As a result, Shiloh describes a communication between a virtual user and the real world.

However, Shiloh is silent as to **"communicating...virtual personal information of a virtual world...to a manager within a virtual world."** This silence is not surprising since Shiloh is related to virtual users communicating to the real world. Therefore, Shiloh does not teach or suggest the aforementioned features recited in amended independent claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Shiloh.

Regarding the rejection as to claim 2, as mentioned above, Shiloh is related to a person using a virtual identity to communicate to the real world. Specifically, Shiloh is directed to making commercial transactions in a real world environment by a virtual user representing a real person. For example, as described in paragraph [0028] of Shiloh, a virtual user is able to purchase goods over the Internet at electronic retailer (“e-tailer”) sites. Therefore, all commercial transactions in Shiloh are made in the real world by a virtual user.

However, independent claim 2 recites, “making a commercial transaction in a **virtual world** on a network, based on virtual personal information of the virtual world received via the network.” Therefore, making a real world transaction, as described in Shiloh, does not constitute “making a commercial transaction in a **virtual world**,” as recited in independent claim 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Shiloh does not teach or suggest making a commercial transaction in a virtual world.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 2 patentably distinguishes over Shiloh. Claims 3-8 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 2 and inherit the patentable features thereof. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 3-8 patentably distinguish over Shiloh.

Regarding the rejection as to independent claim 9, as mentioned above, Shiloh enables a real user to communicate to the real world by using a virtual user name. However, Shiloh fails to teach or suggest “**converting the virtual personal information received from the virtual city** within the virtual world via a network into corresponding real personal information of the real world, based on the registered information,” as recited in amended independent claim 9. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 9 patentably distinguishes over Shiloh. Claims 10 and 11 depend from independent claim 9 and inherit the patentable features thereof. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 10 and 11 patentably distinguish over Shiloh.

Regarding the rejection as to independent claim 12, the Office Action, on page 5 item i, alleges that at paragraph [0031] Shiloh discloses “virtual users are able to make purchases of goods, presumably from virtual stores.” However, it is respectfully submitted that paragraph [0031] of Shiloh does not disclose making purchases from a virtual store. Rather, paragraph [0031] of Shiloh describes that AVPP establishes physical mailboxes that are assigned to subscribers, under their virtual identity and may be accessed at locations affiliated with AVPP.

Further, Shiloh does not teach or suggest “**commercial transaction being made between a first virtual individual and an arbitrary one of the virtual shops**, based on virtual personal information of the first virtual individual,” as recited in independent claim 12. Rather, at paragraph [0032], Shiloh describes an electronic retailer (“e-tailer”) site from which a virtual user may purchase goods. However, the “electronic retailer” as described in Shiloh does not constitute a “virtual shop” as recited in claim 12.

The Advisory Action (mailed on December 3, 2007) asserted that the provisional application of Shiloh teaches “Virtuality users will be able to lead a full virtual life on the Internet” (see Advisory Action; Continuation Sheet (PTO-303), Items 1 and 2). The Advisory Action further asserted that “using your virtual accounts with Virtuality, you will be able to research and shop the internet ...without disclosing any details linked to your real identity”.

However, claim 1 of the present invention, for example, discloses “communicating, via a network, virtual personal information of a virtual world ... to a manager within a virtual world”. In addition, claim 12 of the present invention, for example, discloses “a commercial transaction being made between a first individual and an arbitrary one of the virtual shop”. The provisional application of Shiloh does not disclose such features since the provisional application of Shiloh describes making communications and/or transactions in the real world using a virtual identity of a real user. Specifically, the provisional application of Shiloh describes using virtual accounts with Virtuality to research and shop the internet, e.g. taking care of all real world needs, without using your real identity (see provisional application of Shiloh, page 2, lines 2-4). Therefore, the provisional application of Shiloh is silent as to the above-mentioned features of the present invention regarding independent claims 1, 2, 9 and 12. This silence is not surprising since the provisional application of Shiloh describes communicating and/or making transaction between a virtual user and the real world (e.g. a real store).

Therefore, based upon the above-mentioned discussions, it is respectfully submitted that the provisional application of Shiloh fails to teach or remotely suggest the above-mentioned features of claims 1, 2, 9 and 12. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 9 and 12 patentably distinguish over both Shiloh and the provisional application of Shiloh. Further, the dependent claims patentably distinguish over both Shiloh and the provisional application of Shiloh for the same reasons as their respective base claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections.

NEW CLAIM

New claim 16 has been added to recite:

16. (NEW) A method, comprising:
communicating virtual information of a virtual user to at least one of a plurality of virtual entities within a virtual world, both the virtual user and the plurality of virtual entities representing a real person and real entities; and
managing registered information of the virtual user and real user to convert virtual information into real information of a person.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Shiloh nor the provisional application of Shiloh fails to teach or remotely suggest that above-mentioned features of new claim 16. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 16 patentably distinguishes over both Shiloh and the provisional application of Shiloh.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE SHEET

The Advisory Action requested that entire disclosure of the references AG and AH be submitted along with the Abstract to be properly considered (see Advisory Action; Continuation Sheet (PTO-303), Item 3). In response, Applicants have respectfully re-submitted the Information Disclosure Sheet (IDS) including a PTO-1449 indicating the references AG and AH have been submitted with an Abstract and respective disclosures of the references. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that Examiner consider references AG and AH.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

If the Examiner disagrees with the above-mentioned Amendments and/or Arguments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone prior to issuing the next Office Action to arrange an Interview to discuss what further amendments are required.

SUMMARY

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Docket No.: 1614.1208


Serial No. 10/046,498

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: December 10, 2007

By: 
Sheetal S. Patel
Registration No. 59,326

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501